第6話

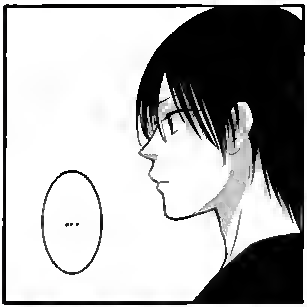
騎男
I ♥ COLD

ICHIKA-CHAN-♪
ICHIKA-CHAN-!
ICHIKA-CHAAAN!
...NOT HERE...
THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULD BE THERE.
ICHIKA-CHUWAN-♡
thunk
JUST LEAVE THAT WOMAN ALONE
...

...FOR HER TO BE SO FRIGHTENED, SHE MUST HAVE A TRAUMA OVER IT AFTER ALL..
WHAT TRAUMA?
...

HEY, OVER WHAT?
OOPSIE-
THE ORIGIN OF HER HATE FOR SNOWY MOUNTAINS IS YOU, BAKEMONO-SAMA.

HUH?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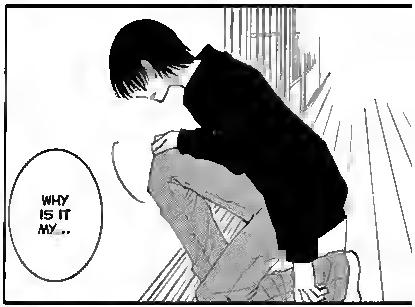
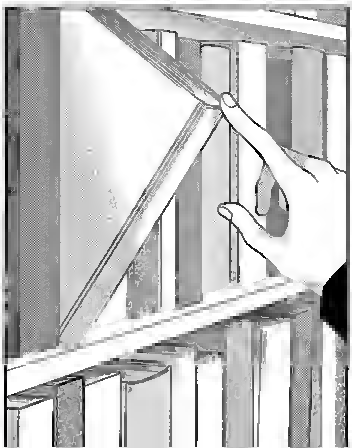
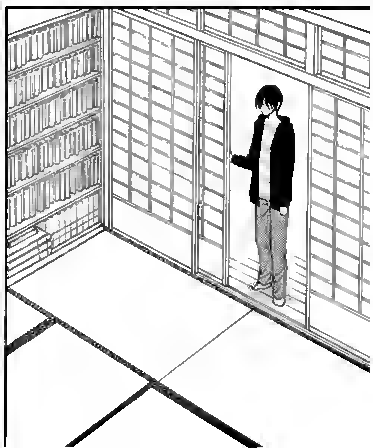

WHY
IS IT
MY...





FLIP
FLIP

That's right. I...

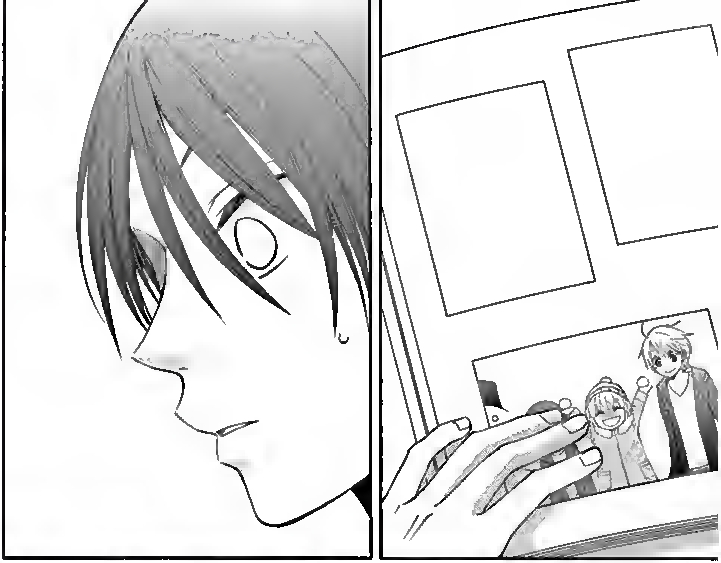
FIANCÉE?
THE GIRL WHO MIGHT BECOME ONE OF YOU TWO'S FIANCÉE IS GOING TO COME, SO GET ALONG.
THE GIRL WHO WILL BECOME YOUR BRIDE.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M TSUCHIYA ICHIKA!

YUKI-KUN ONII-CHAN, LET'S MAKE A SNOW MAN!
She was lively and always laughed.
The girl who suddenly showed up...
what a fiancee was, but...
I didn't really understand
Haa—
Haa—
UUU— IT'S COLD!

BUT IT'S FUN!
I liked that girl.

And I nearly killed her.

I HATE SNOW!!
I felt like
I was hated.

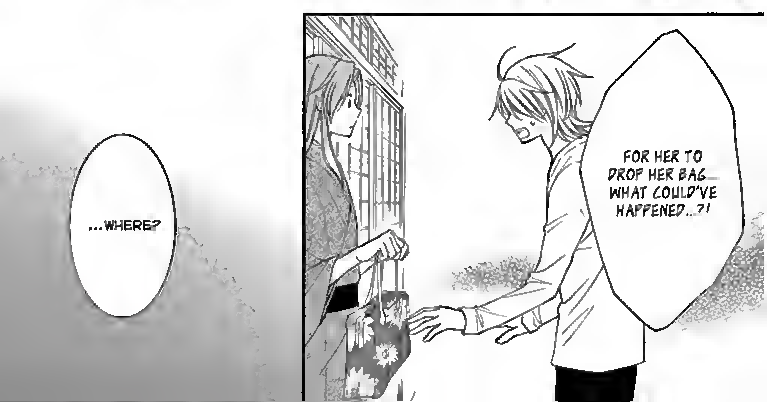


HAVE YOU REMEMBERED?
HAVE YOU ALWAYS KNOWN...?

WELL, I WAS PRETTY OLD AT THE TIME.
SINCE THEN,
YOU WERE SCARED OF DEALING WITH HUMANS
AND YOU WERE ESPECIALLY SCARED OF GIRLS. . . AND THAT CHANGED INTO
A HATRED FOR GIRLS.
UNDER-STAND? WE BAKEMONO-SAMA.
WE OWE A DEBT TO ICHIKA-CHAN!

TEN...? THAT BAG...
AH. YOUNG MASTERS. YOU ARE HERE.
step
step

ISN'T IT THAT GIRL'S?
I PICKED IT UP DURING MY WALK.


FOR HER TO DROP HER BAG... WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED...?!
...WHERE?

GRAB
WHAT?!
EH?
AHH... UM, THAT...
WHERE?! TAKE ME THERE!
ICHIKA-CHAN!
AH! AROUND HERE.

I HATE SNOW!!
I'M SCARED!

ANIKI... THERE'S A STRANGE PRESENCE.
EH...?
RUN
IN-SIDE THE WOODS, HUH?
COMING FROM OVER THERE...
WHOOSH

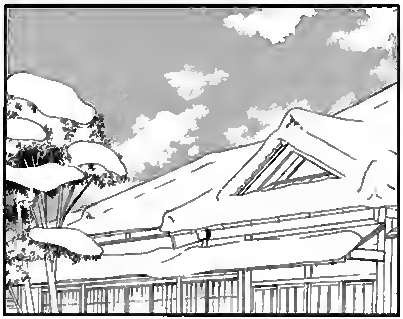
NAY, IT SHOULD BE ABOUT TIME...
SWOOSH
THAT WENCH SHOULD FREEZE TO DEATH SOON
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
PIERCE
GASP

I ASKED YOU "WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"
YOU HEARD ME.
pales
YU. YUKINARI-SAMA.
slump
slump
CALM DOWN, YUKINARI! WE'LL HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS IF YOU RELEASED YOUR POWERS AND WENT OUT OF CONTROL TOO.
Sway
REIKA, WHERE'S ICHIKA-CHAN?

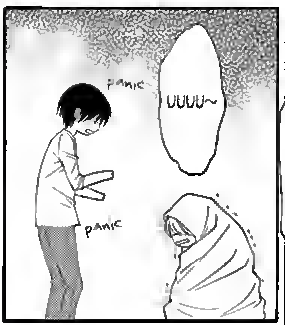
DASH
IN... YOND DIREC-TION...
ICHIKA-CHAN!

ICHIKA-CHAN...!
IT'S NO USE. SHE'S LOST CON-SCIOUSNESS. WE NEED TO MOVE HER QUICKLY...!
BADUMP
BADUMP

SNIFF



COLD...


panic
UUUU~
panic

WA-WAIT! I'LL BRING MORE MAT-TRESSES!
TOUGO-SAN, IT'S COLD..

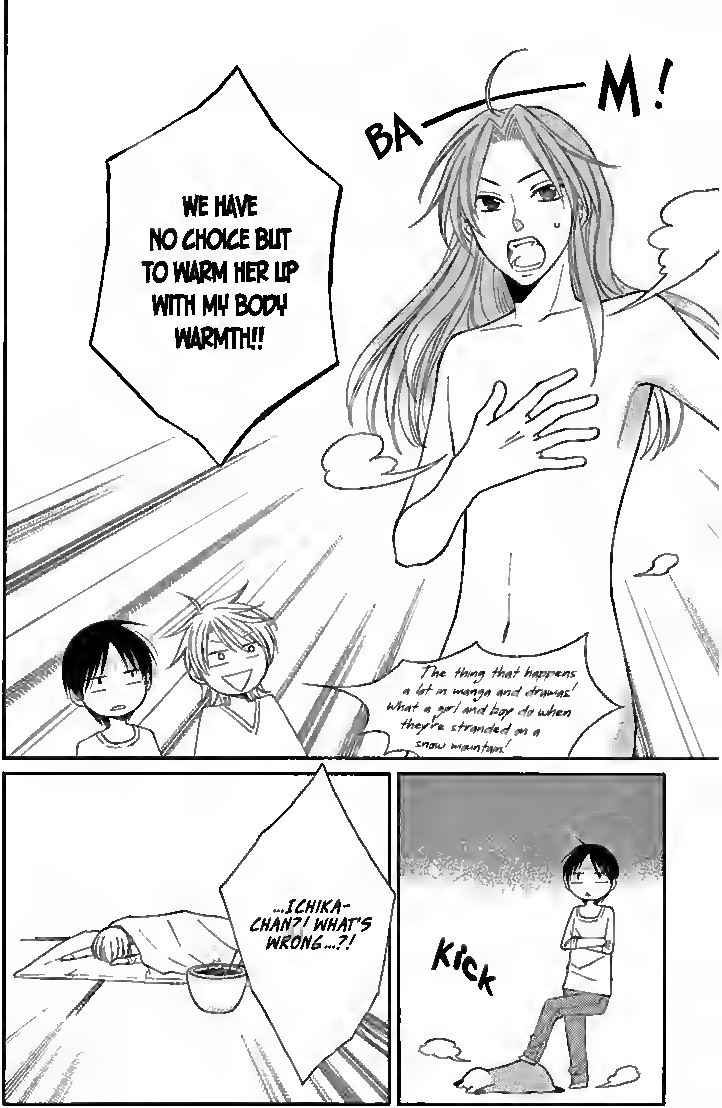
Fire.
I WANT TO WARM MYSELF AROUND A FIRE..
FIRE?!
That fearsome thing?!
ANIKI, WHAT DO WE DO? SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO WARM HERSELF AROUND A FIRE!
...YES?
TEN!
HA! THAT'S RIGHT, IN TEN'S ROOM...!
Panic
OH SHIT, WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE A HEATER IN THE HOUSE...
Panic

T/N: A hibachi is a Japanese heating appliance that uses charcoal as fuel.
...
HE HAS ONE! A HIBACHI!
such a frightening thing was in this house!
TADA!
Young master's please stop
TEN-SAMA, WE BEG YOU. PLEASE PRE-PRARE THIS FOR ICHIKA-CHAN.
UUU...
crackle
crackle

PHEW
WARM.
YOUNG MASTERS, PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOM.
THE ROOM WILL ALSO WARM UP BEFORE LONG SO IT WILL BE TOUGH ON YOUR BODIES.
THEN ICHIKA-CHAN, COMPLETELY WARM YOURSELF UP.
OKAY..
sniff
BUT...

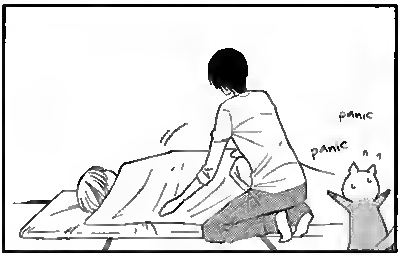
I CAN'T STOP SHIV-ERING~
shiver shiver
CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
tremble
Uuu...
tremble
Uu...
BE A BIT MORE PATIENT! I TOLD YOU IT'LL GET WARM SOON!
COULD IT BE...

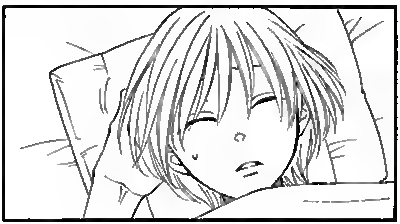
shiver
shiver
A COLD!
BA M!
Never had one →
Never had one
That legendary illness?!
Never
SINCE IT HAS COME TO THIS...


WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WARM HER UP WITH MY BODY WARMTH!!
BA—M!
The thing that happens a lot in manga and dramas! What a girl and boy do when they're stranded on a snow mountain!
...ICHIKA-CHAN?! WHAT'S WRONG...?!
Kick

SHE HAS A TERRIBLE FEVER!
Ha...
crackle
step
YUKINARI!
YUKINARI-SAMA?!

I'LL STAY HERE TOO.


panic
panic



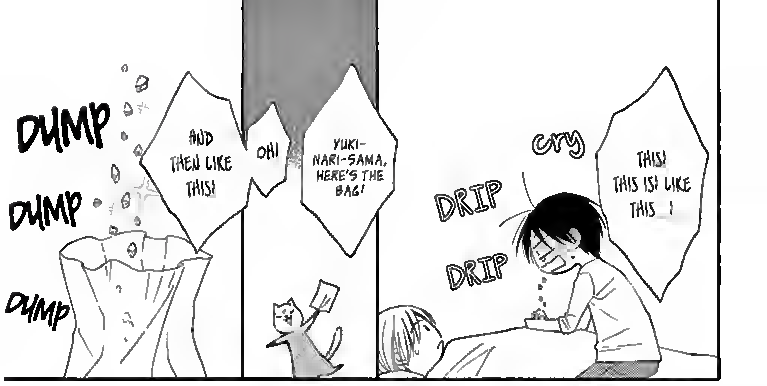
NO, YUKINARI-SAMA! YOU WILL BE HARMED IF YOU STAY IN SUCH A WARM PLACE!

THAT FEELS NICE...
SHIVER
TEN, BRING ME A BAG WHERE I CAN PUT ICE! ANIKI, MEDICINE!
Yes sir!
Yes!
thud thud thud

Not only the snow...
I was scared that she would say
that she had started to hate me too, so...
I couldn't apologize.

that girl.
I loved
SORRY...
drop

Hm
OW...
drop
what ?
ICE...?
YOUR TEARS BECOME ICE...?



〈ロッカメルト〉②＊おわり＊

Translations: KazeYuki @tokumole